

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1877
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN BELGRADE 5280

FOR EUR/RPM

FROM USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SP
SUBJECT: CSCE: SPANISH INTEREST IN HOSTING NEXT FOLLOW-UP MEETING

REF: STATE 181548

1. SPANISH HAVE INFORMALLY SOUNDED OUT DELEGATIONS HERE ON POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING NEXT FOLLOW-UP MEETING, WHICH MOST DELEGATIONS ASSUME WILL BE ABOUT 1980. TWO OTHER DELEGATIONS --THE MALTESE AND THE AUSTRIANS--HAVE ALSO BEEN PUTTING OUT FEELERS TO SEE HOW CSCE PARTICIPANTS WOULD REACT TO THE SUGGESTION OF A NEXT FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN VALETTA OR VIENNA.

2. SPANISH CANDIDACY HAS ALREADY GAINED SOME GROUND AMONG DELEGATIONS IN BELGRADE, FOR SEVERAL REASONS. SPANISH

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DELEGATION HEAD HAS ACQUIRED CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL PRES-TIGE; CHOICE OF MADRID, AS A MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRY, IS SEEN AS A FOIL AGAINST THE MALTESE CANDIDACY; MADRID WOULD MOVE AWAY FROM PATTERN OF HOLDING CSCE MEETINGS ONLY IN NEUTRAL OR NON-ALIGNED (NNA) CAPITALS; AND SPANISH MOVEMENT TOWARD DEMOCRATIZATION IS THOUGHT TO DESERVE POLITICAL RECOGNITION AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

SIMILARLY, CHOICE OF VIENNA OR VALETTA IS SEEN TO HAVE CERTAIN DRAWBACKS. EITHER CHOICE WOULD CONTINUE AND PERHAPS ESTABLISH FIRMLY THE PATTERN OF CSCE MEETINGS ONLY IN NNA CAPITALS, WHICH IS CONSIDERED UNDESIRABLE FOR VARIOUS REASONS. VIENNA HAS MBFR, WHICH MIGHT BECOME CONFUSED WITH CSCE, AND VALLETTA HAS MINTOFF, PLUS CERTAIN PRACTICAL DRAWBACKS SUCH AS SMALL EMBASSIES, ETC.

3. OTHER POSSIBLE CHOICES SOMETIMES MENTIONED HERE ARE STOCKHOLM AND WARSAW. WARSAW WOULD MEAN TWO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN A ROW, WHICH WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNDESIRABLE. STOCKHOLM WOULD BE IDEAL FROM PRACTICAL VIEWPOINT AND WOULD SHIFT BACK FROM SOUTHERN TO NORTHERN EUROPE. BUT IT IS ALSO AN NNA CAPITAL, AND SWedes, CAMPAIGNING FOR IT. THEY SAY THEY HAVE PLENTY OF CONFERENCES IN STOCKHOLM, AND THAT THEY HAVE NO POLITICAL "NEED" TO HAVE THE CSCE THERE. VIRTUALLY ALL DELEGATIONS HERE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SPANISH DO HAVE A POLITICAL "NEED," AND WE BELIEVE THIS FACTOR, COUPLED WITH EARLY PRESENTATION OF THEIR CANDIDACY, WILL TIP THE SCALES TOWARD MADRID.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THE POSSIBLE DANGERS REFERRED TO IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL. WE ALREADY HAVE THE SUSPICION THAT SPANISH AMBASSADOR TILTED TOWARD SOVIETS IN PRESENTATION
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OF HIS COMPROMISE PAPER BECAUSE HE HOPED TO GAIN CREDIBILITY WITH THEM, IN RETURN FOR WHICH SOVIETS MIGHT BE MORE WILLING TO ACCEPT SPANISH CANDIDACY. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN A PURELY LOCAL PHENOMENON. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR, WE SUSPECT, IS AMBITIOUS TO ENHANCE THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS CSCE ROLE. NEVERTHELESS, IT COULD BECOME A BROADER ELEMENT OF SPANISH POLICY, AND COULD INHIBIT SPANISH INTEREST IN NATO MEMBERSHIP UNTIL AFTER THE NEXT FOLLOW-UP MEETING IS HELD. ON THE OTHER HAND, HOLDING OF A CSCE FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN MADRID MIGHT GIVE SPAIN AN ADDITIONAL STAMP OF ACCEPTABILITY IN THE EYES OF OTHER--ESPECIALLY NORDIC--NATO MEMBERS. THESE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, ISSUES WHICH WE CAN EASILY JUDGE FROM OUR LIMITED PERSPECTIVE.

5. FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, MADRID WOULD BE A SATISFACTORY SITE FOR THE NEXT FOLLOW-UP MEETING--BETTER THAN WARSAW OR VALETTA AND MORE LIKELY TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE THAN VIENNA OR STOCKHOLM.
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